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**TRANSMITTAL
FORM**

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	09/943,685
	Filing Date	August 30, 2001
	First Named Inventor	Loughrin et al.
	Art Unit	3679
	Examiner Name	Aaron M. Dunwoody
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	6039-000293

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Technology Center (TC) <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Response to Notification of Non- Compliant Appeal Brief (in duplicate) Appeal Brief (Amended) (in triplicate)
<div>Remarks</div>		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.	Attorney Name W.R. Duke Taylor	Reg. No. 31,306
Signature			
Date	May 3, 2006		

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.			
Typed or printed name	W.R. Duke Taylor	Express Mail Label No.	EV 853 856 233 US (5/3/2006)
Signature		Date	May 3, 2006

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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EV 853 856 233 US



5-4-06

AF/3679
JFW

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/943,685
Filing Date: August 30, 2001
Applicant: Loughrin et al.
Group Art Unit: 3679
Examiner: Aaron M. Dunwoody
Title: DRIVE SHAFT COUPLING
Attorney Docket: 6039-000293

Mail Stop Appeal Brief – Patents
Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION OF NON-COMPLIANT APPEAL BRIEF

In response to the Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief mailed April 3, 2006, Applicants attach hereto an amended Appeal Brief which corrects the deficiencies found in Applicant's Appeal Brief filed on January 20, 2005. As requested by the Examiner, the Brief contains a concise statement and a separate heading for each ground rejection on appeal, Evidence Appendix and Related Proceedings Appendix.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

Dated: May 3, 2006

By: W.R. Taylor

W. R. Duke Taylor
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Attorney Docket No. 6039-000293
Enclosures



PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE HONORABLE BOARD OF PATENT
APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

Application No.: 09/943,685
Filing Date: August 30, 2001
Applicant: Loughrin et al.
Group Art Unit: 3679
Examiner: Aaron M. Dunwoody
Title: DRIVE SHAFT COUPLING
Attorney Docket: 6039-000293

Mail Stop Appeal Brief – Patents
Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

APPEAL BRIEF (AMENDED)

Dear Sir:

Appellants submit herewith their Brief on Appeal as required by 37 C.F.R. 41.37

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BRIEF ON BEHALF OF APPELLANTS

In support of the Notice of Appeal filed January 20, 2005, appealing the Examiner's Final Rejection mailed September 2, 2004 of each of pending claims 1-11 of the present application which appear in the attached claim appendix, Appellants hereby provide the following remarks.

1. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

GKN Walterscheid GmbH is the real party in interest, being the assignee of the present application.

2. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

To the best of Applicants' knowledge, no other appeals or interferences are pending which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the present pending appeal.

3. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11 stand finally rejected. No claims have been cancelled. Claims 1-11 are being appealed and are attached in the Claims Appendix.

4. STATUS OF THE AMENDMENTS

The claims were amended November 30, 2004. The claims were not entered by the Examiner in his Advisory Action dated December 22, 2004 (attached as Exhibit D). The claims are attached in the Claim Appendix.

5. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Independent Claim 1, the only independent claim, relates to a drive shaft assembly (1) for interconnecting a driving component of an agricultural machine in a driven component of an agricultural implement. The drive shaft assembly (1) includes a first shaft (16) and a second shaft (17). ¶22, page 6, lines 9-10. The second shaft (17) engages the first shaft 16 to enable torque transmission and relative axial sliding motion. ¶22, page 6, lines 14-17. See Figure 1. A joint component (6) of a universal joint (2) interconnects one of the first and second shafts (16) and (17) to the agricultural driving and driven component. ¶22, page 6, lines 10-11. The joint component is both rotatable through a specific range of free rotation, ¶25, page 7, lines 14-21, (see Figure 3) and is fixed from axial movement relative to one of the second shafts ¶26, page 8, lines 1-2 (see Figure 2). The second shaft is attached to the agricultural driving component of the agricultural machine or the agricultural driven component of agricultural implement.

6. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

(a) Claims 1-11 are obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Walters et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,706,901 which is attached in the Evidence Appendix at Tab B) in view of Ferguson (U.S. Patent No. 4,551,115 which is attached in the Evidence Appendix at Tab C).

7. ARGUMENT

Rejection of Claims 1-11 as being unpatentable over Walters et al. in view of Ferguson

The Walters et al. reference is directed towards a swivel hitch. Walters et al. discloses and claims the swivel hitch construction easily adapted to connect with a pair of draft links or drawbar of a towing tractor. Walters et al., in passing, in one sentence of the disclosure (column 2, line 47-49 Tab B in the Evidence Appendix) mentions that it may utilize a telescoping shaft. No where, does Walters et al. disclose or suggest a reason or a purpose for the telescoping shaft. The entire Walters et al. reference discloses and claims a swivel hitch.

The Examiner next combines Walters et al. with Ferguson. The Ferguson reference discloses a driveshaft coupling which uses an elastomeric damper. The coupling is rotated against the elastomeric damper. The elastomeric damper always provides a reactive force to return and to maintain the coupling in a first position. Ferguson fails to disclose or suggest any free motion in the coupling. In fact, due to the elastomeric material, which fills the gap in the coupling, no free motion can or does occur in the Ferguson device.

As claimed, Applicants' invention includes free motion to enable the connection of drive components between various implements. The Examiner's combination of references, specifically Walters et al. in view of Ferguson, fails to shed any light on the problem solved by Applicants' invention. Further, this combination fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' invention.

The court in re Fritch, 23USPQ2d 1780 (Fed. Cir. 1992) stated that:

“Obviousness cannot be established by combining the teaching of prior art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching or suggestion supporting the combination. Under §103, teachings of references can be combined *only* if there is some suggestion or incentives to do so. Although couched in terms of combining teachings found in the prior art, the same inquiry must be carried out in the context of a purported obvious “modification” of the prior art. The mere fact that the prior art may be modified in the manner suggested by the Examiner does not make the modification obvious unless the prior art suggests the desirability of the modification.” At 1783 emphasis original.

Here, there is no motivation or suggestion of the desirability to combine Walters et al. and Ferguson. In fact, the Ferguson reference fails to teach any type of free motion. The Walters et al. reference teaches a swivel hitch adaptable for use with either a tractor drawbar or two-point hitch. Walters et al. swivel hitch has no use for teachings of the Ferguson reference.

The Examiner is relying upon hindsight to arrive at the determination of obviousness.

“It is impermissible to use the claimed invention as an instruction manual or template to piece together the teachings of the prior art so that the claimed invention is rendered obvious. This court has previously stated “one cannot use hindsight reconstruction to pick and choose among isolated disclosures in the prior art to deprecate the claimed invention.” In re Fritch, *supra*, 1784.

This is exactly what the Examiner has done in applying his §103 rejection. The Examiner has taken one small piece from the Walters et al. reference and patched it together with the Ferguson reference. The heart of the Walters et al. invention has nothing to do with Applicants’ invention. The Ferguson reference fails to teach free motion. It is clear that the Examiner cannot use his hindsight reconstruction in an

attempt to render Applicants' invention obvious. There is no motivation or suggestion to combine the two references as suggested by the Examiner. In fact, neither reference discloses or suggests the claimed free motion of Applicants' invention.

Accordingly, Applicants believe the claims be patentably distinguishable over the art decided by the Examiner.

8. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to show that the present invention would be obvious over Walters et al. in view of Ferguson. Further, neither reference discloses the free motion claimed by Applicants.

Accordingly, reversal of the final rejection of Claims 1-11 and allowance of the claims is respectfully submitted.

Respectfully submitted,
HARNESSE, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

Dated: May 3, 2006

By: _____


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Attorney Docket No. 6039-000293
Enclosures

CLAIMS ON APPEAL

1. A drive shaft assembly for interconnecting a driving component of an agricultural machine and a driven component of an agricultural implement, comprising:

a first shaft;

a second shaft engaging said first shaft for enabling torque transmission without relative rotational movement and enabling relative axial sliding motion therebetween; and

a joint component of a universal joint operably interconnecting one of said first and second shafts to one of the agricultural driving and driven components, said joint component is both rotatable through a specified range of free-motion rotation without torque transmission and is fixed from axial movement relative to one of said second shaft, the agricultural driving component of the agricultural machine and the agricultural driven component of the agricultural implement.

2. The drive shaft assembly of claim 1, wherein said joint component includes axial grooves and said second shaft includes an end portion having radially extending axial teeth for engaging said grooves and thereby enabling said specified range of relative rotation.

3. The drive shaft assembly of claim 2, wherein said grooves are formed within a bore of said joint component and said teeth extend outward from said end portion, whereby said end portion is received into said bore for enabling engagement between said teeth and said grooves.

4. The drive shaft assembly of claim 2, wherein said grooves are formed in an outer circumferential surface of said joint component and said teeth extend radially inward from said end portion, whereby said joint component is partially received into said end portion for enabling engagement between said teeth and said grooves.

5. The drive shaft assembly of claim 2, further comprising a ring engaged with a ring groove of one of said joint component and said second shaft for fixing said joint component and said second shaft from relative axial motion therebetween.

6. The drive shaft assembly of claim 1, wherein said joint component includes axial grooves and one of the driving and driven components includes radially extending axial teeth for engaging said grooves and thereby enabling said specified range of relative rotation.

7. The drive shaft assembly of claim 6, wherein said grooves are formed within a bore of said joint component and said teeth extend radially outward from one of the driven and driving components, whereby one of said driven and driving components is received into said bore for enabling engagement between said teeth and said grooves.

8. The drive shaft assembly of claim 6, wherein said grooves are formed along a stub end of said joint component and said teeth extend radially inward within a bore of one of the driven and driving components, whereby said stub end is partially received into said bore for enabling engagement between said teeth and said grooves.

9. The drive shaft assembly of claim 6, further comprising a ring engaged with a groove of one of said joint component, the driven component and the driving component for fixing said joint component and one of the driven component and driving component from relative axial movement therebetween.

10. The drive shaft assembly of claim 1, wherein said joint component is a universal joint yoke.

11. The drive shaft assembly of claim 1, wherein said second shaft includes a stub end interconnected thereto for operably interconnecting said joint component and said second shaft.



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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/943,685	08/30/2001	Terry Loughrin	6039-000293	1262

27572 7590 09/02/2004

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EXAMINER

DUNWOODY, AARON M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3679

DATE MAILED: 09/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

6039-000293

Final O/A

Due 12-2-01

Office Action Summary

Application No. ✓ WPT

09/943,685 ✓

Applicant(s)

LOUGHRIN ET AL.

Examiner

Aaron M Dunwoody

Art Unit

3679

MW

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). If no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 June 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings were received on 6/17/2004. These drawings are approved.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent 5706901, Walters et al in view of US patent 4551115, Ferguson.

In regards to claim 1, in Figure 1 below, Walters et al discloses a drive shaft assembly (42) for interconnecting a driving component (10) of an agricultural machine and a driven component (22) of an agricultural implement, comprising a first shaft; a second shaft engaging the first shaft for enabling torque transmission and enabling relative axial sliding motion therebetween; and a joint component of a universal joint operably interconnecting one of the first and second shafts to one of the agricultural driving and driven components, the joint component is both rotatable through a specified range of rotation and is fixed from axial movement relative to one of the second shaft, the agricultural driving component of the agricultural machine and the agricultural driven component of the agricultural implement. Walters et al does not disclose the joint component being rotatable through a specified range of free-motion rotation without torque

In regards to claim 3, Ferguson discloses the grooves being formed within a bore of the joint component and the teeth extend outward from the end portion, whereby the end portion is received into the bore for enabling engagement between the teeth and the grooves.

In regards to claim 4, Ferguson discloses the grooves being formed in an outer circumferential surface of the joint component and the teeth extend radially

inward from the end portion, whereby the joint component is partially received into the end portion for enabling engagement between the teeth and the grooves.

In regards to claims 5 and 9, Ferguson discloses a ring engaging with a groove of one of the joint component and the second shaft for fixing the joint component and the second shaft from relative axial motion therebetween.

In regards to claim 6, Ferguson discloses the joint component including axial grooves and one of the driving and driven components includes radially extending axial teeth for engaging the grooves and thereby enabling the specified range of relative rotation.

In regards to claim 7, Ferguson discloses the grooves being formed within a bore of the joint component and the teeth extend radially outward from one of the driven and driving components, whereby one of the driven and driving components is received into the bore for enabling engagement between the teeth and the grooves.

In regards to claim 8, Ferguson discloses the grooves being formed along a stub end of the joint component and the teeth extend radially inward within a bore of one of the driven and driving components, whereby the stub end is partially received into the bore for enabling engagement between the teeth and the grooves.

In regards to claim 10, Ferguson discloses the joint component being a universal joint yoke.

In regards to claim 11, Ferguson discloses the second shaft including a stub end interconnected thereto for operably interconnecting the joint component and the second shaft.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims above have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron M Dunwoody whose telephone number is 703-306-3436. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P Stodola can be reached on 703-306-5771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

.amd (f)


ERIC K. NICHOLSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Notice of References Cited	Application/Control No. 09/943,685	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination LOUGHRIN ET AL.	
	Examiner Aaron M Dunwoody	Art Unit 3679	Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
	A	US-			
	B	US-			
	C	US-			
	D	US-			
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.



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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/943,685	08/30/2001	Terry Loughrin	6039-000293	1262

27572 7590 12/22/2004

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EXAMINER

DUNWOODY, AARON M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

DATE MAILED: 12/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Appeal 1-1 Due 1-2-05 Advisory Action (Appeal Nep 3-2-05)	Application No. <u>09/943,685</u> Examiner Aaron M Dunwoody	Applicant(s) LOUGHRIN ET AL. Art Unit 3679
	--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --	

THE REPLY FILED 30 January 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
 b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
 ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☐ A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
 2. ☒ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
 (a) ☐ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 (b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 (c) ☒ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 (d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: See Continuation Sheet.

3. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
 4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
 5. ☐ The a) ☐ affidavit, b) ☐ exhibit, or c) ☐ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: _____.
 6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
 7. ☒ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) ☒ will not be entered or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____

Claim(s) objected to: _____

Claim(s) rejected: 1-11.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____

8. ☐ The drawing correction filed on _____ is a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
 9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.
 10. ☐ Other: _____


 Aaron M Dunwoody
 Examiner
 Art Unit: 3679

Continuation of 2. NOTE: The reply filed on 11/30/2004 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): the amended claims are not properly annotated. See 37 CFR 1.111.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

None